

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,
THE HOWE SCALE COMPANY,
RUTLAND, VERMONT.

Rutland, Vt., June 6, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-


I have just received your circular letter addressed to "the alumni and friends of Middlebury," and would be pleased if you could send me a dozen or fifteen more, and also an equal number of the programs for commencement week. Should like to use them among some of our friends who possibly would be pleased to be at commencement this year.

And now I wish to refer to a subject of special interest, though I am embarrassed by being pledged to secrecy even for the second time. After leaving you, I met an acquaintance and he seemed quite a little affected and told me that I had anticipated his act, as he had made his will appropriating quite a respectable sum for the erection of a chapel for the college, and he says, "what you have done simply cuts me out". I had but a few moments before it was time to leave for the train and thus our conference was short. I stated that there were other uses that could be made of his money, which would be just as pleasing, I felt, as what I had done, and urged him not to forget Middlebury, even though the building of the chapel was provided for. Without doubt he will receive the circular letter which you have forwarded to me and may find something in it which will be attractive, but if you wish to write me stating in what direction he could spend this money for the best service of the college I will follow up the subject industriously. I only wish that I could give you the name, because he is a splendid friend of yours, and I shall endeavor to prevail upon him to release me

(J. M. T. #2)

from the obligation of secrecy. He took me one side, that no one should see or mistrust that we were having this special talk. I wanted to tell you of this at the very earliest moment possible, that you may realize the situation.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John A. Murch". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "John A. Murch".